Claims

1. In a baler for making large parallelepiped bales and including a baling chamber having an end section containing a crop inlet, a plunger mounted for reciprocating within said end section for compacting charges of crop that have passed into said baling chamber through said crop inlet, a plunger drive mechanism coupled to said plunger for effecting said reciprocating movement and including a pair of transversely spaced connecting rods each having a center line extending between coupling pins at opposite ends thereof, which center lines are disposed substantially horizontally when said plunger is fully-extended into said end section of said baling chamber so as to lie approximately within a horizontal plane passing centrally between upper and lower walls of said baling chamber and between a pair of transversely spaced load pin arrangements associated with one of said plunger drive and plunger for sensing the force imposed on said plunger during compacting charges of crop, the improvement comprising: said load pin arrangements each including at least one load pin offset vertically relative to one of said center line or plane when said plunger is in its fully-extended position.

2. The baler, as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said connecting rods is an elongate bar comprising first and second bar sections releasably joined together by a pair of vertically spaced pins with one of said pins being said at least one load pin.

3. The baler, as defined in claim 2, wherein said first bar section is an end section; said end section including a bearing receiving a mounting pin securing said end section to said plunger.

4. The baler, as defined in claim 1, wherein said plunger includes a pair of transversely spaced, connecting rod mounting plates; each of said mounting plates being releasably secured to a remaining portion of said plunger by first and second vertically spaced pins, with said first pin being said at least one load pin.

5. The baler, as defined in claim 4, wherein said mounting plates are each triangular, with said first and second vertically spaced pins being respectively located in first and second corners of a respective plate; and each plate including a third corner

pivotally coupled to a rear end of a respective connecting rod.

6. The baler, as defined in claim 4, wherein said first and second pins are located in vertical alignment with each other and respectively equidistant from said plane.

7. A connecting rod for use in a plunger drive of a baler, comprising: said connecting rod being in the form of a bar having a central axis; first and second bearings respectively mounted in opposite ends of said connecting rod; said connecting rod including first and second sections forming a joint between said first and second bearings; and said joint being secured together by a pair of fasteners, one of which is a load pin offset to one side of said central axis.

8. The connecting rod, as defined in claim 7, wherein said joint includes a tongue on said first section and a groove on said second section of said connecting rod.

9. The connecting rod, as defined in claim 7, wherein said first and second bearings are plain spherical-ball bearings.

10. A baler plunger comprising: first and second transversely spaced connecting rod mounting plates located along a horizontal plane passing centrally through said plunger; said mounting plates each being releasably mounted to a remaining portion of said plunger solely by first and second pins offset to opposite sides of said horizontal plane; and at least one of said first and second pins being a load pin.

11. The baler plunger, as defined in claim 10 wherein said first and second pins are spaced equally from said horizontal plane.

12. The baler plunger, as defined in claim 10, wherein said mounting plates are each triangular; and said first and second pins being located in vertical alignment with each other and respectively located in first and second corners of an associated one of said mounting plates.

13. The baler plunger, as defined in claim 12, wherein each of said plates is an equilateral triangle; and a third corner of each plate being adapted for coupling to an end of a connecting rod.